Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 14826 120841Z

13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 SY-04 SAM-01 /072 W
---------- 036532
R 111638Z DEC 74 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1779
DIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 14826

EO 11652: NA DECON 12-11-75
TAGS: PINS LE PLO
SUBJECT: ROCKET ATTACKS ON PLO OFFICES IN BEIRUT

REF: BEIRUT 14704

SUMMARY: AMID CONFUSION AND UPROAR GENERATED BY DEC 10 ROCKET ATTACKS ON PLO INSTALLATIONS HERE, POPULAR ASSUMPTION CONTINUES TO BE THAT THEY WERE PERPETRATED BY ISRAELI AGENTS. AT SAME TIME, GOL AUTHORITIES ARE BEING WIDELY CRITICIZED FOR LAX SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, AND THEY ARE PROVING ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT ATTACKS MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORK OF FEDAYEEN DISSIDENTS. DESPITE GOL AND PLO APPEALS FOR LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY AND CALM, DEC 10 ATTACKS HAVE ALREADY LED TO ONE FURTHER BOMBING INCIDENT--APPARENTLY PER-PETRATED BY FRUSTRATED PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS. ATMOSPHERE REMAINS DISTURBED, LENDING WITCH-HUNT QUALITY TO INVES-TIGATION INTO THE ATTACKS AND TO SEARCH FOR ALLEDGED ISRAELI
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 14826 120841Z

"SPIES". END SUMMARY.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

1. DEC 10 ROCKET ATTACKS ON PLO OFFICES HAVE OCCASIONED
NEW OUTBREAK OF "SPY-MANIA" AND SPARKED WITCH-HUNT IN FEDA-
YEEN AND LEBANESE CIRCLES HERE REMINISCENT (ALBEIT TO LESSER
DEGREE) OF HYSTERICAL BACKLASH THAT FOLLOWED
APRIL 1973 ISREALI RAID ON BEIRUT. INVESTIGATION
BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAS REVEALED THAT ALL FOUR CARS
USED AS LAUNCH-VEHICLES IN THE THREE ROCKET ATTACKS--INVOLVING
17 ANTI-TANK PROJECTILES REPORTEDLY OF US MANUFACTURE (FROM
PRESS PHOTOS, ARMA CONCLUDES THEY WERE M72 LAWS)-- HAD
BEEN LEASED FROM THREE LOCAL CAR-RENTAL AGENCIES BY FOUR
PERSONS POSSESSION BRITISH, MEXICAN, WEST GERMAN
AND IRISH NATIONALITY. ACCORDING TO DIRGEN LEBANESE INTERNAL
SECURITY FORCES, ALL FOUR INDIVIDUALS ENTERED LEBANON
AS TOURISTS DEC 5 AND DEPARTED BY AIR FOR LONDON,
FRANKFURT AND ROME DEC 9.

2. GOL'S OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT THE FOUR MEN DEPENDED ON
LOCAL ACCOMPLICES TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSIONS, AND MAIN FOCUS
OF CURRENT SPY-HUNT IS ON TRYING TO FIND OUT JUST WHO THOSE
ACCOMPLICES WERE. GOL SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE UNDER ATTACK
FROM ALL SIDES FOR ALLEGED LAXITY IN FAILING TO PREVENT THE
ATTACKS OR TO APPREHEND CULPRITS. RESULT HAS BEEN THAT NUMBER
OF FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING BBC OCRRESPONDENT (BUT TO BEST OF OUR
KNOWLEDGE NO US CITIZENS), WERE PICKED UP IN POLICE DRAG-NET
DEC 10 AND SUBJECTED TO INTERROGATION AND SOME DEGREE OF
HARASSMENT. AT LEAST TWO LOCAL NEWSMEN WHO HAD TEMERITY
TO SUGGEST ATTACKS WERE LINKED TO CURRENT INTER-FEDAYEEN DISPUTE
HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, AND PLO REPOR-
TEDLY IS HOLDING AT LEAST ONE PERSON FOUND IN POSSESSION OF
TRANSISTOR RADIO IN VICINITY OF PLO HEADQUARTERS EARLY DEC 10.

3. PLO SPOKESMEN ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO PAINT WHOLE AFFAIR AS
ABORTIVE ISRAELI ATTEMPT TO DEMORALIZE FEDAYEEN AND EXACERBATE
LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. BOTH THEY AND LEBANESE OFI-
CIALS WERE QUICK TO REAFFAIRM GOL-PLO "SOLIDARITY" IN WAKE OF AT-
TACKS AND TO APPEAL FOR CALM, BUT THIS DID NOT PREVENT SOMEONE--
PRESUMABLY FRUSTRATED PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS--FROM DESTROYING
OFFICE OF ONE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RENT-A-CAR AGENCIES
(LOCATED 200 METERS FROM THIS EMBASSY) WITH BOMB WHICH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

EXPLODED AT 0100 GMT DEC 11.

4. LOCAL PRESS REACTION GENERALLY REFLECTS POPULAR ASSUMPTION
THAT ISREAL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEC 10 ATTACKS. ALTHOUGH NEWS
REPORTING IS LURID AND FULL OF SPECULATION, EDITORIAL COMMENT IS
FAIRLY RESTRAINED. CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAAT SAID OPERATION IN-
DICATED ISRAEL "DOES NOT HESITATE TO COMMIT ANY TERRORIST ACT" AND
BELIEVED IT "WILL INCREASE SYMPATHY FOR PLO AMONG WORLD PUBLIC

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OPINION". LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR SAID OPERATION
WAS CARRIED OUT "ONLY TO PROVE TO ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH
IS PAINED AND DISTURBED BY FEDAYEEN ACTIONS, THAT ISREAL CAN
STILL MEET PALESTINIAN CHALLEENGE". PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR
SAID OPERATION WAS AIMED AT "EXTERMINATING PALESTINIAN LEADER-
SHIP" AND "OBSTRUCTING CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS", BUT RESULTED IN
"ANOTHER COMPLETE FAILURE TO BE ADDED TO LIST OF ISRAELI DEFEATS".
PRO-SYRIAN AASH SHARQ COMMENTED THAT "LEBANON WILL CONTINUE
SHARE FULL SOLIDARITY WITH ITS PALESTINIAN BROTHERS". PRO-LIBYAN
AS SAFIR CHARGED ISREAL WITH WAGING WAR "AGAINST PALESTINIAN
CULTURE, NOT AGAINST TERRORISM AS IT PRETENDS."

5. COMMENT: GIVEN APPARENT SOPHISTICATION AND ORIGIN OF
EQUIPMENT USED IN DEC 10 ATTACKS, PLUS SIMILARITY IN TACTICS TO
THOSE EMPLOYED IN APRIL 1973 ISREALI RAID (DESTROYED CAR-RENTAL
AGENCY HAD ALS BEEN SUPPLIER OF CARS FOR THAT OPERATION), POSSI-
BILITY OF ISREALI INVOLVEMENT BECOMES MORE BELIEVABLE. HOWEVER,
SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS HERE STILL DO NOT RPT NOT COMPLETELY
RULE OUT THEORY OF FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONIST" RESPONSIBILITY,
NOTING INTERESTING PARALLELS BETWEEN DEC 10 ATTACKS AND DEC 1972
FEDAYEEN ROCKET ASSAULT ON THIS EMBASSY. IN MEANTIME, LOCAL AT-
MOSPHERE IS DISTURBED AS SPECULATIONS RE LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER
INCIDENTS MULTIPLY AND GOL-PLO "SPY-HUNT"CONTINUES.
HOUGHTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT14826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740360-1009
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741241/aaaabjcm.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 BEIRUT 14704
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROCKET ATTACKS ON PLO OFFICES IN BEIRUT
TAGS: PINS, LE, PLO, FEDAYEEN
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005